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COMICS



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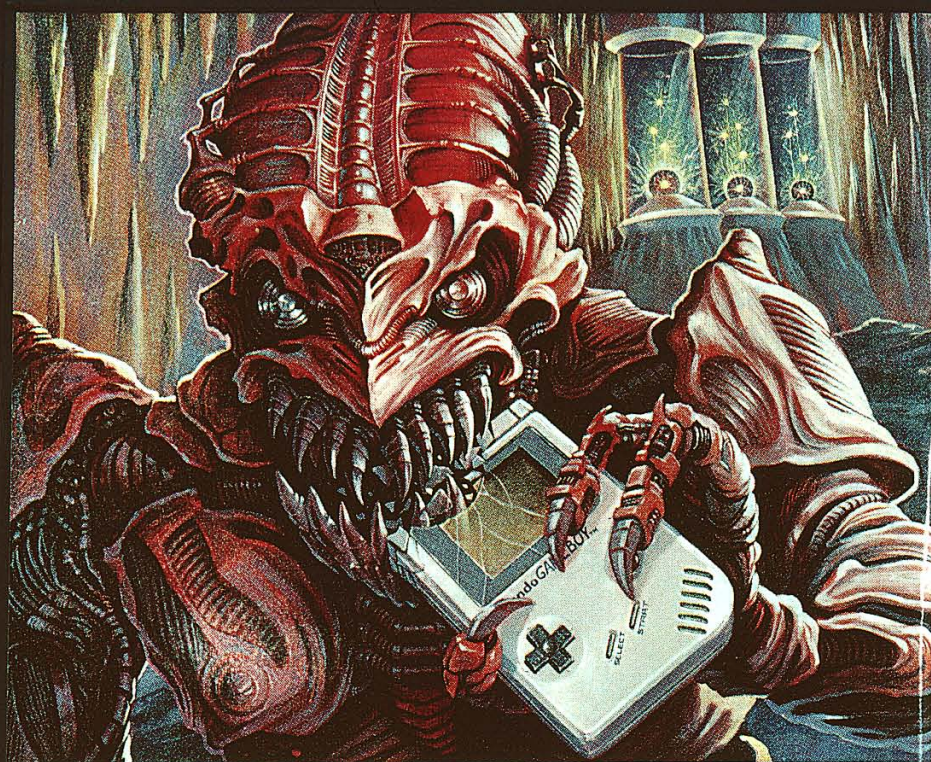
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

ALAS,
POOR
SPIDER-MAN--

--I KILLED
HIM WELL!

EDDY
LAWSON
Emberling '91





GIVE YOUR GAME BOY A TASTE OF COMBAT, CONTRA STYLE.

Mmmmm, Operation C™ for Game Boy™ has all the brutal battle flavor of the NES hit Contra™. But here's the bite: this time it's Scorpion alone versus Black Viper—Red Falcon's partner in slime—who's turned a secret naval lab into an experimental alien freak factory.

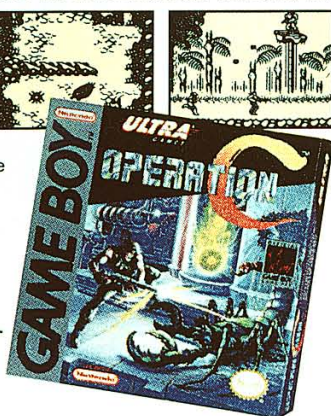
To blow away Black Viper's pit of hideous genetic mishaps, you must blitz five merciless war zones including Mutant Mountain, Phlegm Forest and the dreaded Cave O' the Crud Creatures. All infested with

zombie snipers, bloodthirsty squid lice, savage spider moths, devastating techno-terrors and more.

Of course, in true Contra style, you'll have to upgrade your arms as you go with Spread Guns, Fire Guns and the all new vermin-seeking Homing Gun. Three lives plus a Continue Mode may keep you going. But Black Viper's awfully hungry and you're going to make a tasty Blue Plate Special.

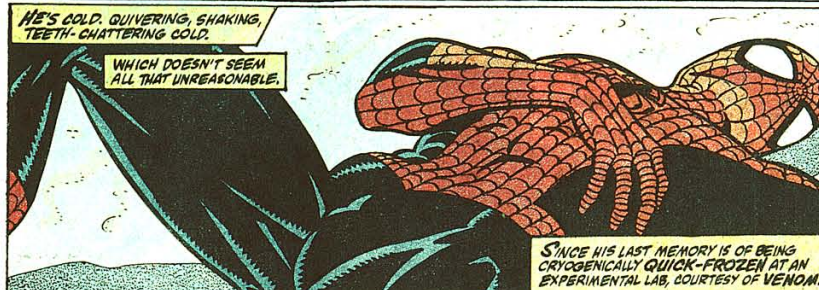
ULTRA
GAMES

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BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT PETER PARKER GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®



HE'S COLD. QUIVERING, SHAKING, TEETH-CHATTERING COLD.

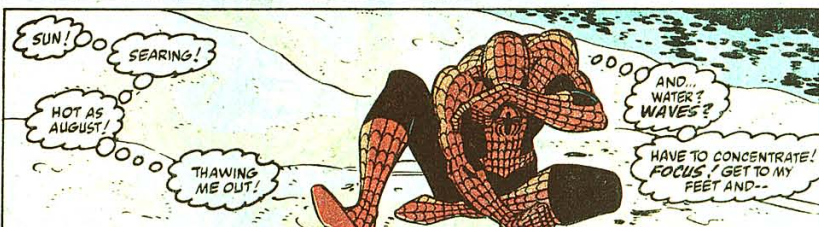
WHICH DOESN'T SEEM ALL THAT UNREASONABLE.

SINCE HIS LAST MEMORY IS OF BEING CRYOGENICALLY QUICK-FROZEN AT AN EXPERIMENTAL LAB, COURTESY OF VENOM!



BUT AS HE SWIMS BACK TO CONSCIOUSNESS THROUGH A CHILL, VISION-BLURRING HAZE, HE HAS ONE QUESTION: IF HE'S SO COLD--

--HOW COME HE'S SWEATING?



SUN! SEARING!

HOT AS AUGUST!

THAWING ME OUT!

AND... WATER? WAVES?

HAVE TO CONCENTRATE! FOCUS! GET TO MY FEET AND--



--SAND! A BEACH?! THIS CAN'T BE YONKERS!

WHERE THE BLAZES AM I?!

WHY YOU'RE IN PARADISE SPIDER-MAN! CAN YOU THINK OF A BETTER PLACE--

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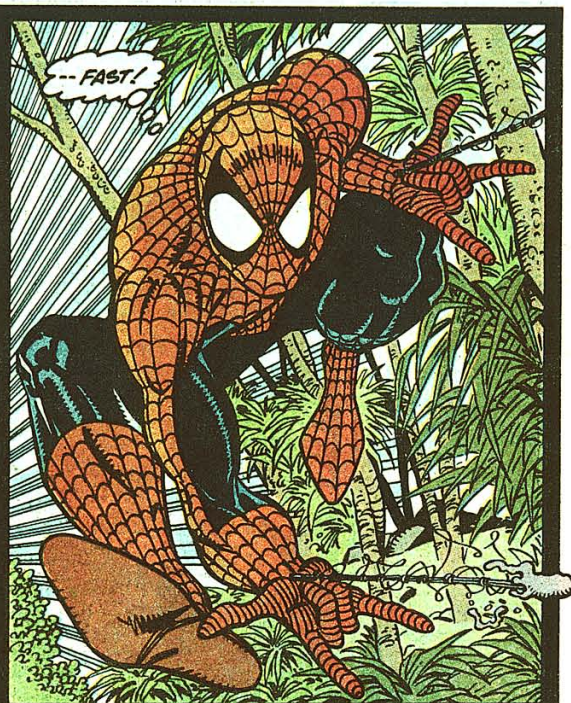


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WEBBING WON'T STOP HIM, BUT MAYBE IT'LL BUY SOME TIME! I'M STILL WEAK, FUZZY! HAVE TO GET MYSELF TOGETHER...



--- FAST!



NO FOOLIN'!



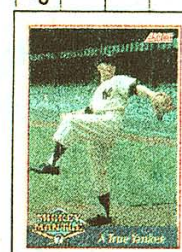
♪ NOW THIS IS A TALE OF OUR CASTAWAYS. THEY'RE HERE FOR A LONG LONG TIME!!



⇒ HEH HEH HEH

SCORE

The Mickey Mantle of Baseball Cards



SCORE proudly introduces a spectacular new seven-card series of hand-signed Mickey Mantle cards. There are 38,500 cards in this limited edition. 2,500 are personally autographed. Find them in packs of SCORE's Series 2 blockbuster 1991 baseball card collection. Or win one by entering our mail-in sweepstakes.

1991 SCORE cards are loaded with other great surprises too. The Dream Team, First Round Draft Picks, 110 Rookie Prospects, All Star Team, The Team Franchise Players, trivia cards and more. For the Mickey Mantle of baseball cards, it's SCORE.



SCORE

THE OFFICIAL CARD OF THE 1990's™





JUNGLE?
GRAPEVINES?
WHAT NEXT?

A
CHIMP
SIDEKICK?



C'MON, PETER! FREEZING AND
RELOCATION WERE TRAUMATIC,
BUT YOU'VE GOT TO SNAP OUT OF IT!

REMEMBER HOW THAT ALIEN
SYMBIOTE MELDED WITH
EDDIE BROCK TO FORM
VENOM.

NOW THE ONLY THING
EITHER OF THEM REALLY
WANTS IS TO MAKE YOU
DEAD.



VENOM WAS RIGHT WHEN HE SAID OTHER
PEOPLE SHOWING UP HAS SAVED MY BUTT:
THE POLICE, STYX AND STONE...

THEIR INTERVENTION
CHANGED THE ODDS
IN MY FAVOR.



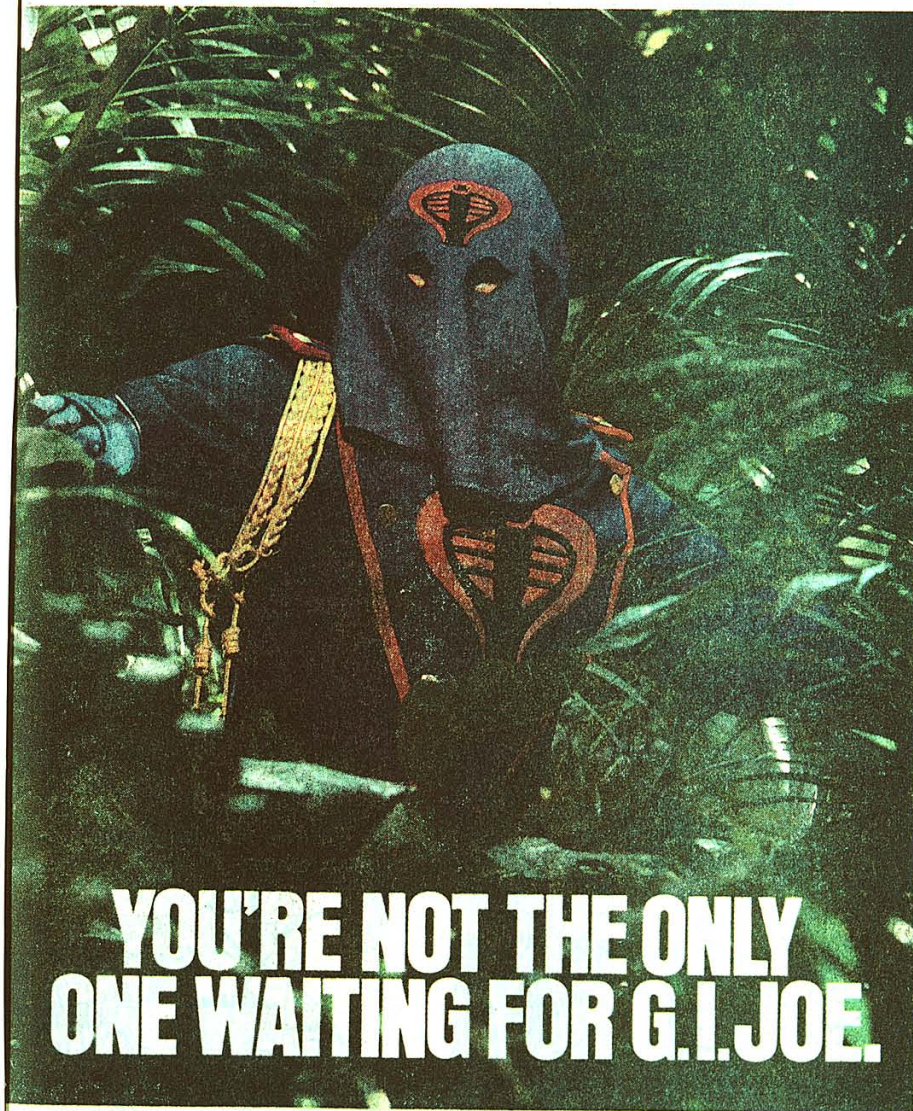
AND TWO OTHER
THINGS TO
REMEMBER: VENOM
IS INSANE. HIS
THOUGHT PROCESSES
AREN'T LIKE A NORMAL
HUMAN'S! PLUS--

-- THIS IS HIS
TURF HE RE-
SEARCHED IT,
PROBABLY
SCOUTED IT
BEFOREHAND.
HE COULD BE--



-- ANYWHERE?

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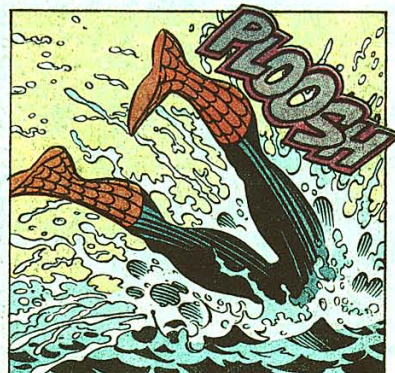
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WAITING FOR G.I. JOE.

So is that blue-hooded hell raiser, Cobra Commander.[®] But you can help squash this terrorist and his boys, with the new G.I. Joe Video Game for the Nintendo. Your mission: lead Snake Eyes,[®] Blizzard,[®] Duke,[®] Captain Grid-Iron[®] and Rock & Roll[®] in do-or-die combat against Cobra Commander and the COBRA[®] forces.

Choose your G.I. Joe character, your weapons and start blasting your way through Antarctica, the Sahara, the jungle, and worst of all, the sewers of New York. Get to level six, get Cobra Commander, and it's mission accomplished. Of course, your first mission is to get the new G.I. Joe Video Game.

TAXAN





INTERLUDE: PITTSBURGH, WHERE THE SUN ALSO SHINES -- THOUGH NOT IN THE HEART OF MARY JANE WATSON-PARKER.



TOMMY AND KEVIN, SWEETEST NEPHEWS A GAL COULD HAVE SO CAREFREE.



CAN'T EVEN GUESS THEIR UNCLE PETER MIGHT BE DYING AT THIS VERY MOMENT!

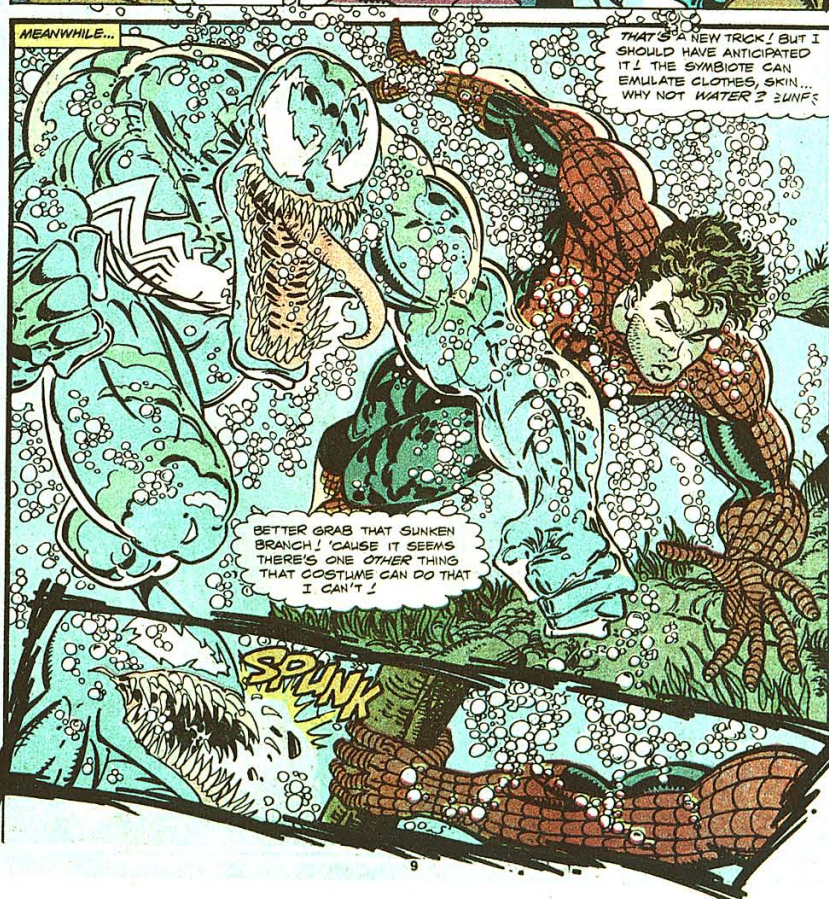
I KNOW HE SENT ME HERE SO I'D BE SAFE WHILE HE WENT AFTER VENOM.

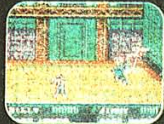


BUT I CAN'T STAND IT MUCH LONGER! NOT KNOWING IF HE'S--

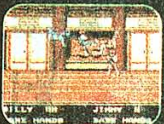


HA, HA! AUNT MARY JANE'S ALL WET!





USA: All's well at the dojo, until Marion is kidnapped.



JAPAN: Something mysterious is happening in the Land of the Rising Sun.



NEW CHARACTERS:
Once defeated, your
bitter enemies join
your quest.

TWICE THE CHARACTERS, THREE TIMES THE ACTION!



CHINA: It's a world-wide
thriller as you search
for Marion and the
Sacred Stones.



ITALY: Only your all-new
martial arts moves can
conquer the gladiators.



EGYPT: Finally, you'll
confront the Curse of
the Pharaohs.

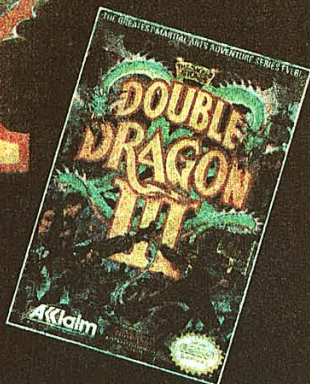
THE SACRED
STONES

DOUBLE DRAGON III

SIMULTANEOUS
2-PLAYER ACTION
THE ARCADE HIT
CONTINUES!

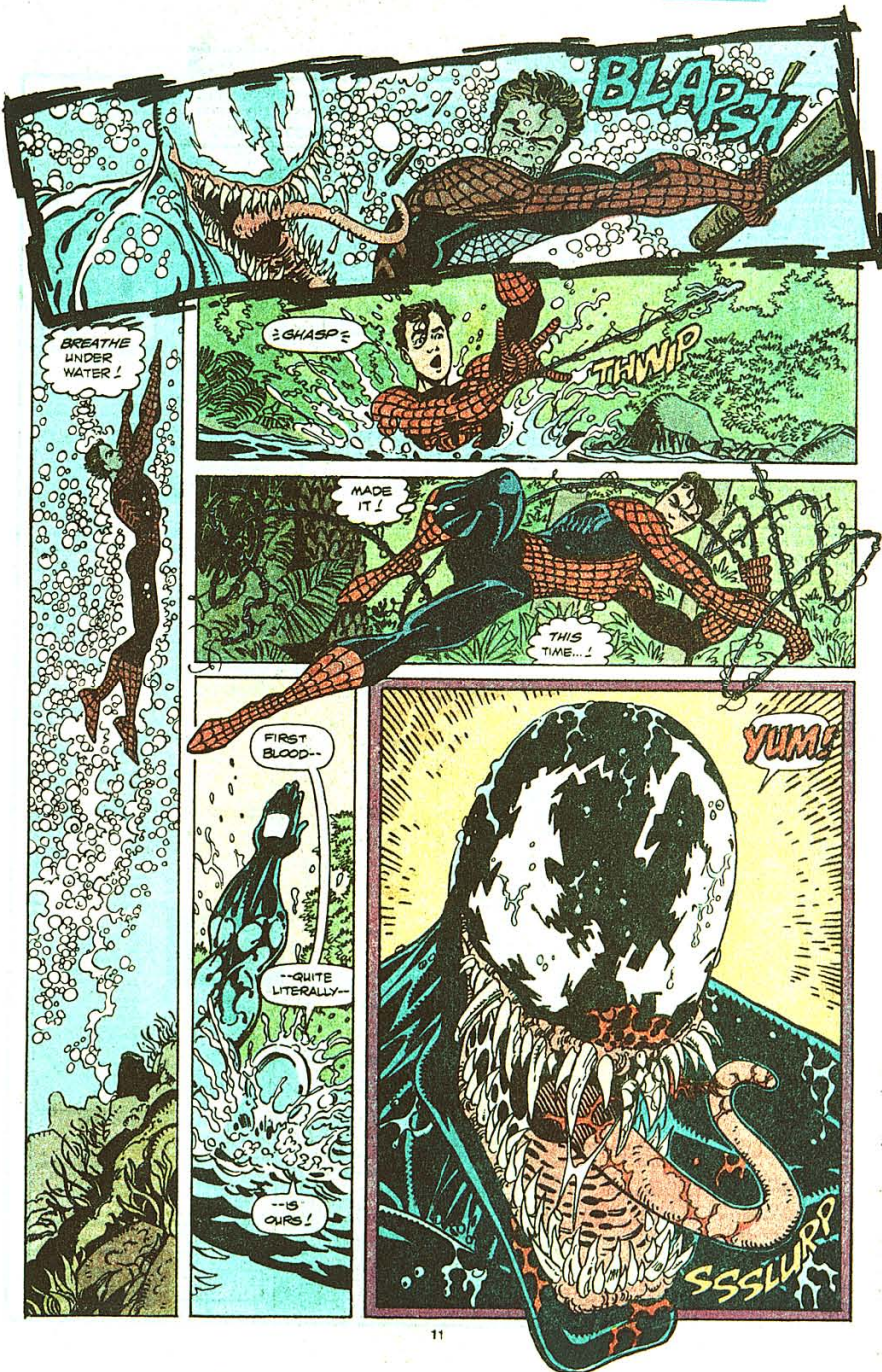
Acclaim
entertainment inc.
Masters of the Game

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for play on the
Nintendo
ENTERTAINMENT
SYSTEM



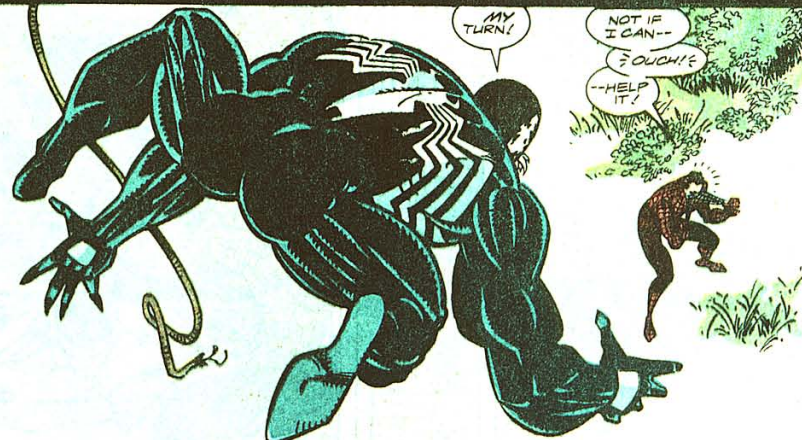
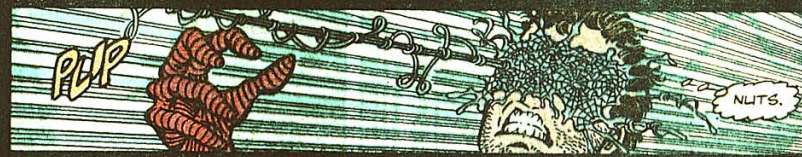
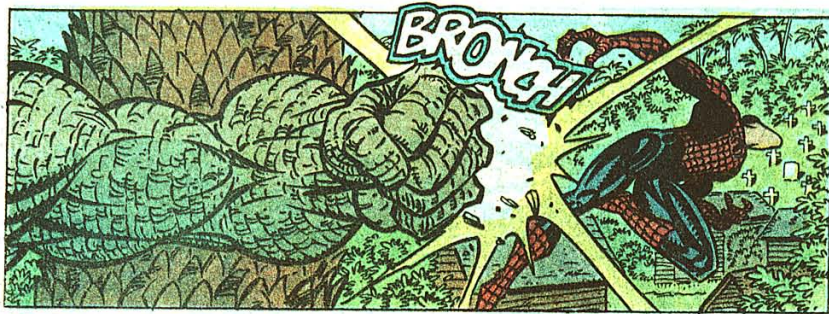
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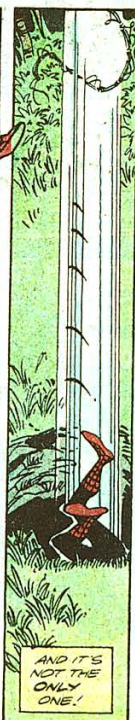
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OHMM... FLASH DIDN'T RESERVE THAT! I'M JUST WORRIED ABOUT PETER TRYING TO SURVIVE VENOM! WITHOUT MY BLACK CAT POWERS--

GUESS I STILL HAVE FEELINGS FOR HIM, EVEN THOUGH MY MAIN AFFECTIONS BELONG TO--

HOLD UP CHAMP! I'VE CHANGED MY MIND!

ALL RIGHT!

SORRY, SPIDER. I HAVE A LIFE TO LEAD. I GUESS... YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN.

--THERE ISN'T A BLOODY THING I CAN DO TO HELP HIM!

--FLASH? YEAH, THEY DO!

I'M ON MY OWN!

GOT TO GET MYSELF OUT OF THIS! SNAG THOSE ROTTED CEILING SUPPORTS, AND INVITE VENOM--

THWIP

--TO COME ON DOWN!

KRRRIK

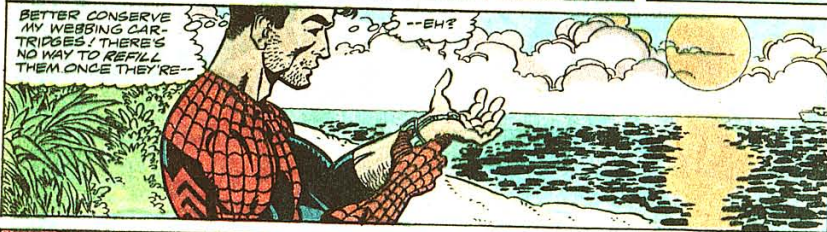


COAST IS CLEAR!

YECH! SMELLS BAD! WE DON'T LIKE STINKY PLACES!

JUST FOR THAT--

--WE'RE GOING TO EAT YOUR LUNGS!



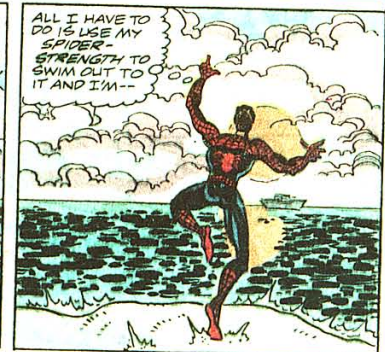
BETTER CONSERVE MY WEBBING CARTRIDGES! THERE'S NO WAY TO REFILL THEM ONCE THEY'RE--

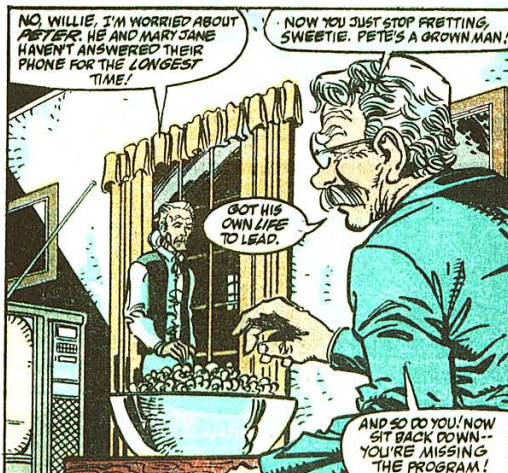
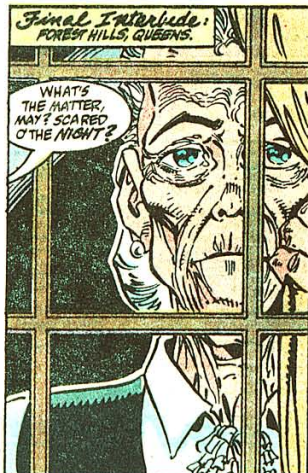
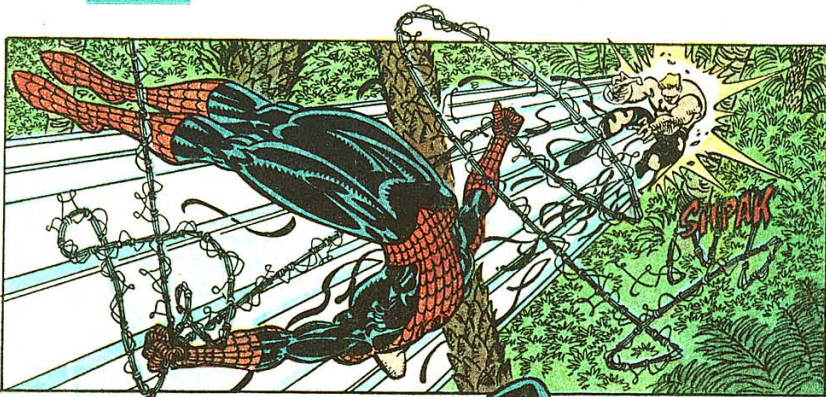
--EH?



A BOAT! VENOM SAID WE WERE CLOSE TO SHIPPING LANES!

ALL I HAVE TO DO IS USE MY SPIDER STRENGTH TO SWIM OUT TO IT AND I'M--





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OFFICIAL RULES & REGULATIONS

1. Spider-Man Trivia Game, sponsored by Phone Programs USA Inc. ("PPI") and Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. ("Marvel"), is an interactive telephone game of skill requiring knowledge of the "Spider-Man" character as found in various Marvel publications. 2. Game runs 3/8/91-5/31/91. 3. Touchtone callers may play by dialing 1-900-740-8888, anywhere in the continental United States, 24 hours a day. 4. No minimum age but anyone under 18 must get parental permission before calling. Prizes won by persons under 18 shall be awarded to their name or to their parent(s) or legal guardian(s). 5. Each call is \$1.75 for the first minute and \$.95 for each additional minute. Maximum 3 minutes. Limit 4 calls per week, per household. 6. Callers shall hear an introduction to the game and the "Spider-Man" character before play for call limiting purposes. The caller has 2 minutes to advance as far as possible. Each call is a separate game. 7. Game begins at Question 1. Callers have 3 opportunities to correctly answer any 1 of 20 multiple choice questions or the game ends. If he answers any 1 correctly, the caller goes on to Question 2. 8. Question 2 is a set of fill-in questions. The caller has 3 opportunities to answer correctly any 1 of 20 questions or the game ends. If he answers any 1 correctly, the caller goes on to Confrontation Round One. 9. In Confrontation Round One, the caller is challenged by 1 of 2 opponents which shall rotate randomly. Each opponent has 4 scenarios which shall rotate. The caller gets 1 randomly-selected scenario per call. If he responds correctly, the caller goes on to Question 3 or the game ends. 10. The third set of questions are multiple choice with 3 opportunities to answer any 1 of 20 questions correctly and advance to Question 4 or the game ends. 11. Question 4 is a set of fill-in questions. The caller must answer 3 tries. Any 1 of 20 questions correctly to continue on to Question 5 or the game ends. 12. Question 5 is a set of multiple-choice questions. The caller must answer correctly in 3 tries. Any 1 of 20 questions to continue on to Question 6 or the game ends. 13. In Confrontation Round Two, the caller gets the opponent he did not get in Confrontation Round One. The opponent has 4 rotating scenarios. The caller shall be given 1 randomly-selected scenario per call. If the caller responds correctly, he goes on to Question 6 or the game ends. 14. Question 6 is a set of fill-in questions. The caller must answer in 3 tries. Any 1 of 20 questions correctly to continue on to Question 7 or the game ends. 15. Question 7 is a set of multiple-choice questions. The caller must answer any 1 of 20 questions correctly in 3 tries or the game ends. If he answers correctly, he wins a prize and goes on to the Final Question. 16. Question 8 is a fill-in question. If the caller answers correctly, he wins a prize. If he has not exhausted time, he shall return to the same question in Question 8 and attempt to answer it correctly until the time is up. 17. The caller then shall be told what prize(s) he won and given a prize claim number and instructed how to claim his prize. He must forward the prize claim by 6/31/91. 18. The prize for the first level is a Marvel comic book; the second level prize is a comic book and trading card pack; for the third level, a comic book, trading card pack and watch; and for the fourth level, a comic book, trading card pack, watch, and "The Official Handbook of the Marvel Universe" a 10 volume collection. All prizes have been provided at cost by Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc.; each prize valued under \$25. 19. PPI and Marvel reserve the right to add or replace questions at any time and cancel the game at any time. Players waive any claim or right in the event of any ambiguity or error in any questions or answers; and, by entering, players agree to be bound by and subject to these official rules and to be subject to the decisions of PPI and Marvel whose decisions are final. Players acknowledge that the correct answers to all questions are those provided and indicated by PPI and Marvel. 20. Sponsors and their Service Provider are not responsible or liable for incorrect or inaccurate entry of information by callers, technical malfunctions of the telephone network, computer equipment, software or any combination thereof, or lost or delayed data transmissions. 21. Void where prohibited. Employees and families of PPI, Marvel, Call Interactive, and their affiliated companies are not eligible. All federal, state and local laws and regulations apply. 22. Free Rules may be obtained in person from PPI, 919 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10022, during normal business hours, or write "Spider-Man Trivia," c/o PPI, P.O. Box 7012, FDR Station, New York, New York 10022.

WIN A 10 VOLUME MARVEL LIBRARY!



PLUS...
A Spider-Man Watch!
Marvel Trading Cards!
A Comic Book!



HELP ME SAVE MARY JANE!
CALL 1-900-740-8888

\$1.75 FIRST MINUTE; 95¢ EACH ADDITIONAL MINUTE. MAXIMUM CALL 3 MINUTES.

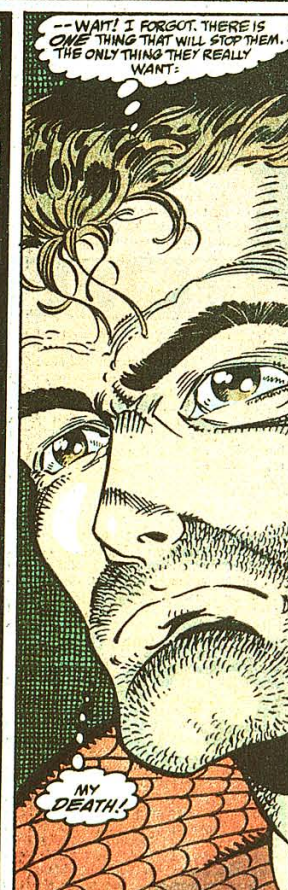
PRIZE CLAIM

To claim your prize, print your name, age, address, and prize claim number on a 3 x 5 card and send it to:
Dept. 900-HELP SPIDY
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016
All prizes must be redeemed by June 30, 1991. You must have a touchtone phone to play.

HOW TO PLAY AND WIN PRIZES!

1. Call 1-900-740-8888. 2. Answer Spider-Man trivia to help Spidey scale the wall. 3. Battle villains with the keys on your touchtone phone. Press # to defeat Hobgoblin. Press * to fend off Dr. Octopus. 4. Win prizes (comics, trading cards, watches, and Marvel Universe Handbook collections!) The higher you go, the more you win! 5. Game runs March 8, 1991 to May 31, 1991.

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STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Hi, Heroes! It's homage time! That's right, it's time for us to pay tribute to as great a bunch of people as you'll find anywhere — and this is one of the rare occasions when I'm not referring to our own Bullpen geniuses!

This Soapbox Salutation is in honor of the burgeoning ranks of enthusiastic purveyors of one of the world's most popular forms of entertainment; in other words, let's hear it for all the wonderful comic book store owners and managers wherever they may be!

Some of our younger readers may not realize it, but there was once a time when there were no comic book stores! The only places to buy comics were the usual spots

where magazines are sold; supermarkets, newsstands and the rapidly disappearing mom-and-pop "candy stores" that used to grace almost every street corner of our cities.

Sure, you could buy comics there — but that's all you could do! There was no one to discuss them with, no one to trade them with, no one to save special copies for you or to give you tips about issues you might otherwise have missed. Everything was totally impersonal; you walked up to the magazine rack, hoped to find an issue you wanted, bought it and left.

But how things have changed! Now, virtually every city with more than two and a half residents has at least one comic book store where you're able to find all the latest issues of your favorite mags as well

as catch up on the back numbers you've missed. It's a place where you can meet with other enthusiastic comic book fans and shmooze to your heart's content. In short, it's a welcome oasis of color and excitement in life's desert of the mundane! So here's all those who bring us those cultural comic book havens of happiness we have grown to know and love! Mighty Marvel doth doff its hat to thee; ye are officially No-Prized, one and all, in perpetuity!

Excelsior!

Stan



MARCH comes in like a griffin and goes out like a phoenix — at least that's the way it works in the Marvel Universe. Lately there have been so many comings and goings here at Mighty Marvel, it's beginning to feel like graduation day for Menudo.

We'll do our part to fill you in on all the big changes. What you do with this information once it's presented to you, we'll leave to your own discretion.

It all started with **Jim Galton**, who is much like the month of March, in that he usually comes in like a hawk, and goes out like a dove. Jim was Marvel's President and Chief Executive Officer, but he was recently promoted to the position of Chairman of the whole Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. Taking over Jim's previous position as P/CEO is **Terry Stewart**, who is known to come in like a charging bull elephant, and go out like a sea otter.

Meanwhile, over in Editorial, there have been shake-ups a plenty. **Jim Salicrup**, who has been known to come in like a wildebeest and go out like a three-toed sloth, will no longer be the master of Spider-Man's fate. After guiding all the Spider-Man titles to new and greater heights for the past few years, Jim has been promoted to the newly-spawned title of Special Projects Editor.

But don't worry — **Bob Budiansky**, who comes in like an aardvark and goes out like a platypus, will still be Marvel's Editor in Charge of Special Projects. Bob is also busy writing his new SLEEP-WALKER series, so you'll be seeing plenty of his work in the near future. Marvel has so many special projects these days, it takes at least two editors to handle them all. Of course, we like to think all our projects are special!

Jim will still be keeping three of his old titles — MARVEL AGE, TOXIC AVENGER, and the ultra-reprintable new SPIDER-MAN book. But the lion's share of the Spider-Man books will be passed over to **Danny Fingeroth**, who on at least one occasion has come in like a llama and gone out like an orangutan. But what will

happen to Danny's old books, you may ask?

Well, he'll be keeping some but others will be given to other editors. Some of them may end up going to our newest managing editor, **Renée Witterstaetter**, who generally comes in like a palomino pony and goes out like a swan. Renée will continue to edit WHAT THE --?, will inherit SHE-HULK, and will be handling a few other titles to be announced. Taking Renée's place as **Craig Anderson's** assistant is **John Lewandowski**, formerly Warehouse Manager in our reproduction department. You didn't hear it from us, but John has been known on occasion to come in like a polar bear and go out like a titmouse.

In the midst of all this hoopla, we bid a fond farewell to **Bobbie Chase's** assistant editor, **Gary Barnum**, who had come in a year ago like a poodle, and went out like a porcupine. Gary has returned to the warmer and, as some may say mellower, climes of sunny California. Just remember, Gary, that California may have surfing and great weather and more blondes, but New York has a higher percentage of hand-gun murders!

Replacing Gary is **Chris Cooper**, who, and this is strictly on the QT, one time came in like a horned toad, and went out like a wombat. Taking over Chris's previous job as **Rob Tokar's** assistant (and submissions editor) is **Sarra Mossoff**, who comes in like a mink, and goes out like an iguana.

Stepping into Sarra's shoes as Editorial Assistant is former intern **Mark Powers**, who is doing an admirable job, considering the difference in foot-size between Mark and the rather dainty Sarra. Now, this is second-hand, so don't quote us on this, but Mark generally comes in like a magpie and goes out like a guppy.

It's apparently a good time to be a female editor at Marvel, as **Marie Javins** has been promoted from **Marcus McLaurin's** assistant to full Epic Editor. Marie is perhaps best known for her ability to come in like a zebra and go out like a

small marsupial mammal, such as an opossum. Marcus will be keeping HELLRAISER, NIGHTBREED, the upcoming HELLRAISER/NIGHTBREED crossover, JIHAD, and ALIEN LEGION, while Marie inherits AKIRA, GROO, and others. Sitting in Marie's old chair is **Tom Daning**, who in a recent survey was voted "Guy Who Did the Least Number of Embarrassing Things in the Past Year." Tom's oddest habit is his ability to come in like an ostrich and go out like a hump-backed whale.

Occupying Tom's old desk, if "desk" it can be called, is newcomer **Mike Lackey**, the latest assistant editor on MARVEL AGE. Little is known about Mike, save that he has expressed a strong desire to someday come in like a woodchuck and go out like a yak.

Finally, let's all give a hearty "Thanks a lot, pal!" to **Dan Sliott**, who ably filled in as **Ralph Macchio's** assistant while **Michael Heister** took three months off to collect his thoughts. Having completed his collection, Mike is now back where he belongs, under Ralph's watchful eye. Mike had initially come in like a prehistoric woolly mammoth, left rather abruptly like a koala bear, and returned just in the nick of time, like a penguin.

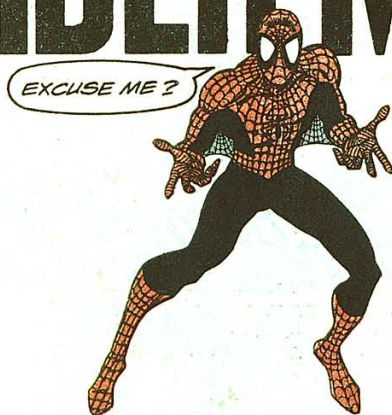
We can't say exactly what creatures Dan came and went as, since his time with us was so short. But the winds whisper tales of a man who enters like a hedgehog and departs like a gibbon. Could Dan, in fact, be this man? Only time will tell.

The convention season always comes upon us like a horde of locusts, and goes out like a gaggle of geese. And what better way to kick it off than with the wonderful Wonder-Con? The Wonder-Con will be held Friday, April 26 through Sunday, April 28 at the Oakland Convention Center in Oakland, CA. For info, call (415) 352-5841.

Confirmed Marvelite guests include **Tom DeFalco**, **Mark Gruenwald**, **Chris Claremont**, **Rob Liefeld**, **Jim Lee**, **Ron Lim**, and hordes of others yet to be confirmed, so plan to attend, friend!

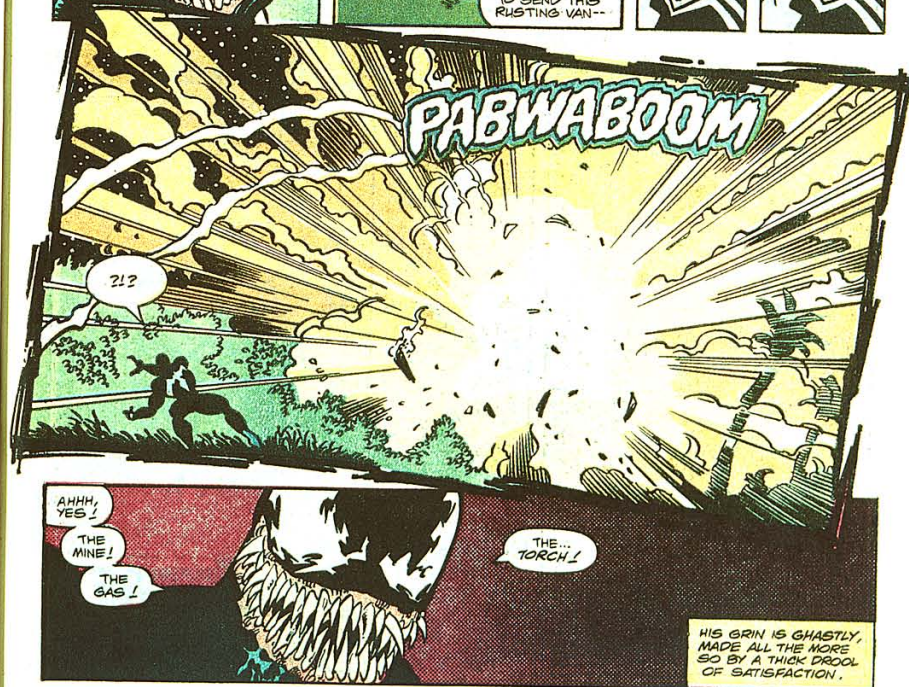
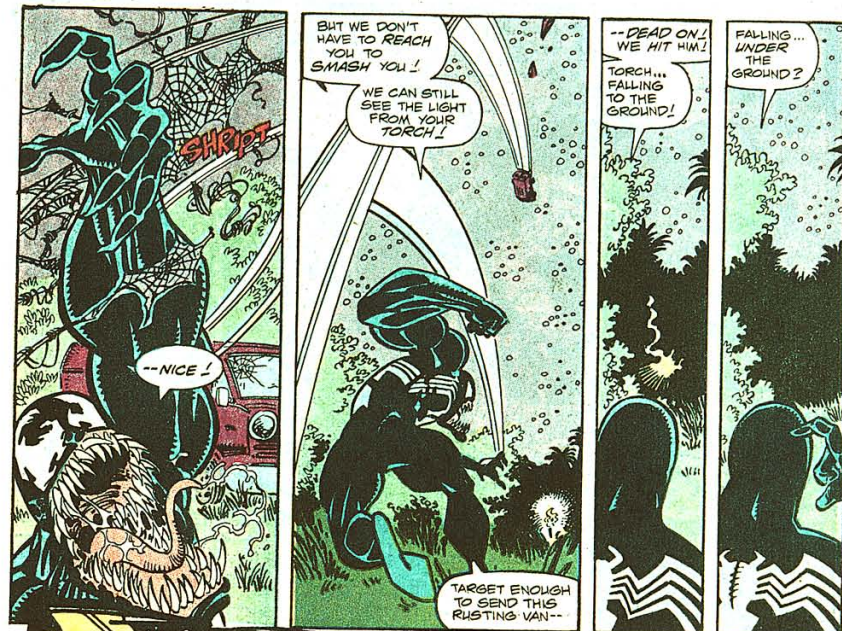


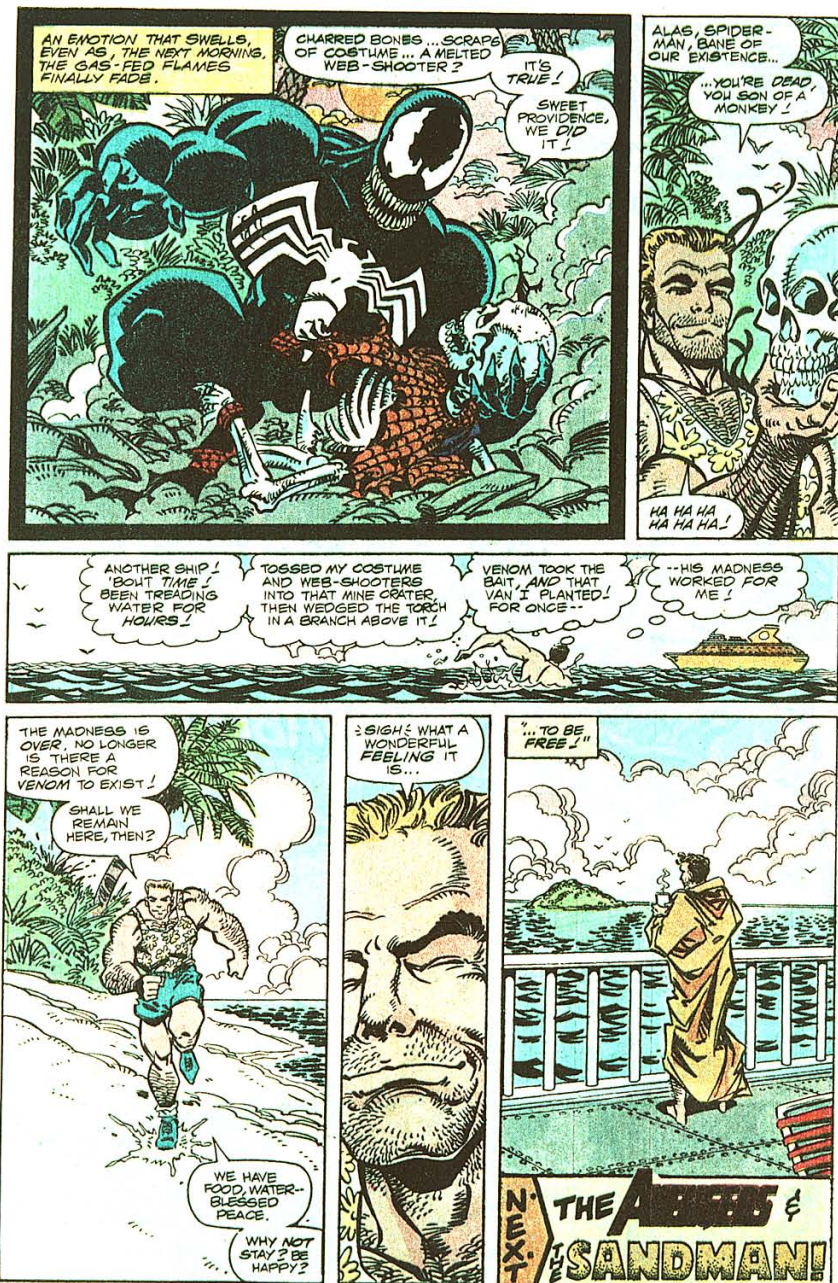
THE DEADLY FOES OF SPIDER-MAN



**A FOUR ISSUE LIMITED SERIES
THIS MARCH FROM MARVEL.
DANNY FINGEROTH, KERRY GAMMIL & AL MILGROM**

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THE SPIDER'S WEB

MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

DANNY MC DONNELL
EDITOR
ERIC FEIN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

HYPE-O-RAMA

Some Spidey-related things you won't want to live without:

DARKHAWK #3, still on sale, guest-starring Spider-Man, as he and Darkhawk go for round two against the *Hobgoblin*! **DEADLY FOES OF SPIDER-MAN #1**. You've been hearing about this for years. At last—the first Spider-Man limited series ever has its debut this very week!

SPIDER-MAN'S WEDDING: re-presenting the event that changed comics history! On sale next month!

THE SPIDER-MAN SAGA: In the same manner as the acclaimed *WOLVERINE SAGA*, this deluxe format mag recounts the life and times of everybody's favorite hero. On sale in May—but reserve your copy of the first issue of this limited series now. (Another Spider-Man limited series! Hoo-hah!)

And don't forget that the editor of *SPIDER-MAN* (the non-amazing, spectacular or web one), Jim Salicrup, is launching a new sure-to-be hit. It's called *TOXIC AVENTURER*. Those of you familiar with this Hollywood heartthrob won't want to miss his Marvel debut. The rest of you—check out this wild and wacky new series. The second blockbuster issue's on sale now.

And Dan Cuddy, assistant editor on *SPIDER-MAN* (the non-amazing, spectacular or web one) wants us to hype his band *HYPOLOVEWHEEL*'s new Alias Records album "SPACE MOUNTAIN." Consider it hyped, Dan.

Web-Slinging Studs

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #340 was excellent! The dummy that threatened to shoot the dummy wasn't very real though. Come on people! Really! Also, Spider-Man wouldn't fall for that stupid—"please let me test you in my laboratory with all the dangerous weapons, so I can kill you," trap, then, would he? He knows he has too many enemies and he was perfect prey doing those tests for "Dr. Turner." Besides that, the *Femme Fatales* story was excellent. Those four are dangerous!

You recently asked if we fans liked the character boxes at the top of the cover. They're great! Please use them whenever possible. I think they add to the cover, not take away. Maybe they would be better at the bottom of the cover or possibly the sides. New York's Neurotic Super Hero?

I also wrote in because I sympathize with Erik Larsen. Recently, I saw his profile interview in *MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE* #91. His name was spelled wrong. He even spells his name at the bottom of his self-portrait. I have also seen his name misspelled a few other times somewhere else. I sympathize with Erik, because I also spell my name the same way, and it is constantly being misspelled by other people. I would have changed my name a long time ago, but my parents wouldn't let me. I like Erik with a "k" anyway!

Erik M. Miller
20230 West River Rd.
Grand Rapids, OH 43522

Dear Webheads,

I've been collecting ASM for a long time now. I have every issue from about #150 on. I never had any real complaints until now. I'm really getting tired of the storyline where Peter keeps coming to the stupid decision to give up being Spider-Man. This issue seems to come popping out of nowhere everytime he turns around. Way back in issue #275 he decided to quit. This carried on all the way to issue #290 where he finally came to grips with being the wondrous wall-crawler.

Everything was back to normal for Pete. He went back to school, married Mary Jane, sold photos, and busted up bad guys in his spare time. Now in issue #340 he's ready to throw in the towel again. What's with this guy? Can't he make a decision and stick to it? I hope he comes to his senses and realizes that no matter what he does he'll always be Spider-Man at heart. Then I hope that this never comes up again, because it's really getting old.

Augie Schmitt
825 Hampton Road
Hayward, CA 94541

Although the plot device may be the same, Augie, the motivation behind Spidey's desire to quit has been quite different each time he has done so. It is that motivation we are trying to

explore, not his actual resignation. Are you always 100% sure—all the time—of everything you've decided to do? Don't you sometimes want to pack it all in? Well, Spidey's that way, too. Just like you and me—only he sticks to walls.

Dear Mr. Sharen and Mr. Yomtov,

What happened to Spidey's good ol' red and blues? Has his costume changed to red and black? I hope not. Not once in issue #340 did Spidey's clothes have a bit of blue in them. Please bring back the color. Another thing is his eyes. The white part of his mask has gotten smaller and more rounded. I would advise Erik to sharpen the eyes a bit. I'm anxiously anticipating issue #342. I can't wait to see Erik's rendition of the Scorpion. Keep up the good work, and don't forget the blue!

Sean McDonnell
1870 Glenbrook Ave.
Camarillo, CA 93010

Sorry, Sean, but it wasn't the decision of the colorists to make Spidey's costume black. Actually, Erik was just trying an experiment to see your reactions. As you can see by the next letter, your opinions were quite mixed...

Dear Spider-crow,

I like it! I am, of course, referring to the changes in Spidey's outfit. For all who don't catch on, I'm talking about the fact that you can't see any blue in Spidey's costume anymore.

I also liked the mock cover on #341. Whose idea was it to copy SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #158's cover anyway?

I like Erik Larsen's artwork, and I hope he stays with ASM for a long time. So until Pete and MJ decide to move to Texas and raise cows, Make Mine Marvel!

Jay Patumanon
10133 Beekman Place
Houston, TX 77043

The "mock cover" was the brainstorm of then-editor Jim Salicrup. And thanks for sharing your opinion about Erik's experiment with Spidey's costume. What do the rest of you think? Blue or black? What if they were considering a major motion picture for Spider-Man? Blue or black?

Jim,

I'm a 29-year-old woman who has never read comics until recently. Back in March, the man I love introduced me to Spider-Man. We started reading Spider-Man together. He has a full collection of THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN with only a few missing. He even has a Spider-Man license plate on his new Honda CRX. The car has Spidey's colors—red and blue.

I've really enjoyed and plan on enjoying Spider-Man the rest of my life. The storylines are great and the art is really great, too!

I hope that all of your storylines remain as good as #341's.

Judy Reiber
2935 A Yoder
Midland, MI 48640

Well, Judy, your boyfriend is probably hoping that we don't change Spidey's costume to red and black. Otherwise he'd have to buy a new car!

...NO-PRIZE NEWSFLASH...

Now hear this, loyal Marveloids! With the dawn of a new decade, we've decided to revamp and update our policy on the awarding of those nifty no-prizes you hear mention of in many a Marvel mag. Henceforth, no-prizes will be awarded for one thing and one thing only—meritorious service to Marvel above and beyond the call of duty. What constitutes "meritorious service"? Lots of things could! Like sending a box of comics to the children's wing of a hospital. Or compiling a chronological cross-title index to a character's appearances. Or coming up with an explanation for a major discontinuity or discrepancy. Your imagination's the limit. So if you think spotting a misspelled word or a miscolored boot is worth a no-prize, you're living in the wrong decade! This policy is in effect for all Marvel titles whose editors award no-prizes.

NEXT: Enter: the Avengers—and their latest member... the SANDMAN?

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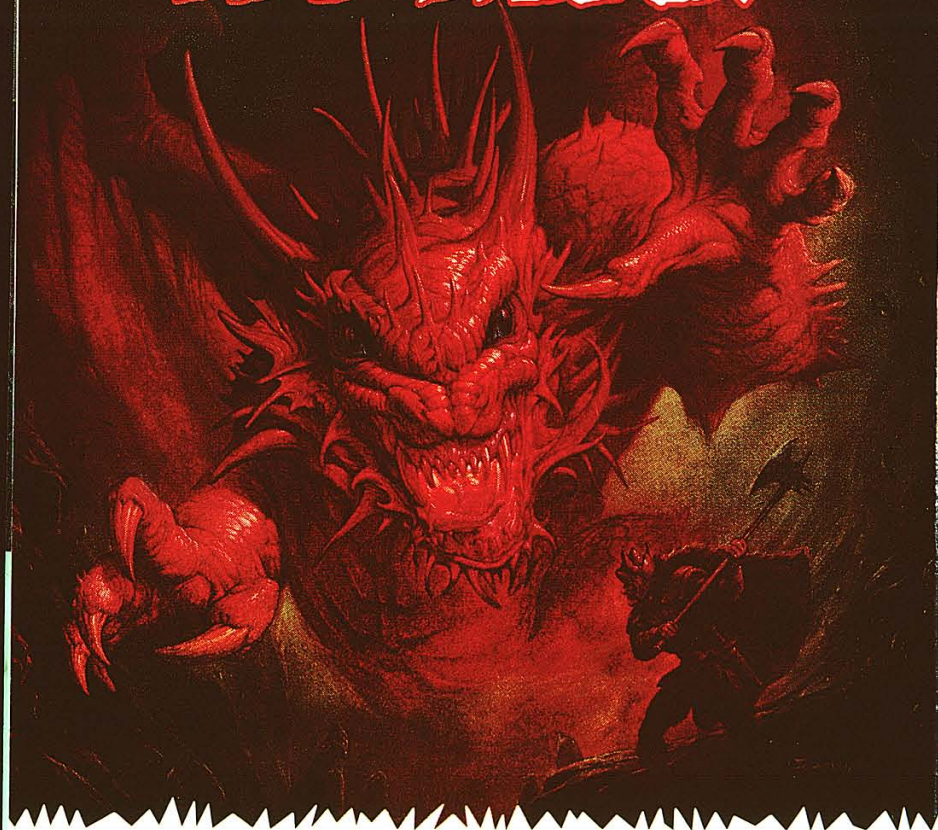


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